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JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 5 SEP 2005

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

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| Applicants: | Yi Xiao, et al. | |
| Int. Appln. No: | PCT/US2004/007793 | |
| Int. Filing Date: | 15 March 2004 | |
| US Appln. No.: | To Be Assigned | Case No.: 21178YP |
| Filed: | Concurrently Herewith | |
| For: | PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF CHIRAL BETA AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES BY ASYMMETRIC HYDROGENATION | |

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
DATE OF DEPOSIT September 15, 2005
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EY66061139405
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE BY EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESS" SERVICE
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ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450
MAILED BY Winston C. [Signature]
DATE 9-15-05

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are reflected on page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this response.